

REMARKS

Claims 20-24, 30, 32-35 and 36 are now in the case.

Claims 20-24, 32 and 35 have been amended to depend from Claim 36.

Claims 30, 33 and 34 have been amended to depend from Claim 36 and to employ language corresponding to the elements recited in Claim 36. Claims 23 and 33 also recite the addition of the liquid in step (d), rather than step (b), to correspond with the steps recited in Claim 36. Basis is in the claims as originally presented. Claim 24 properly depends from Claim 23 and remains unchanged.

The foregoing amendments add no new matter and entry is requested. A sheet entitled "**Version with markings to show changes made**" is attached.

SUBMISSION OF REFERENCE FORM

Pursuant to the Examiner's comment at page 2(#6) of the Office Action, enclosed herewith is a Form PTO/SB08A separately listing the references cited in the Search Report of the corresponding PCT application. It is understood that the Examiner has already considered these references in the current Office Action.

FORMAL MATTERS

For the record, it is noted that there are no rejections or objections under 35USC112 outstanding.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102/103

Claims 1-2, 15-16, 18-21, 23-31 and 33-34 stand rejected over U.S. 5,358,655, for reasons of record. Claims 1-2, 15-21, 23-31 and 33-35 stand rejected over U.S. 4,451,386, for reasons of record. Claims 22 and 32 stand rejected over '655 or '386 in further view of U.S. 5,698,504, for reasons of record.

These rejections relate to the invention as originally defined by Claim 1. Since no rejection of Claim 36 over any of the cited patents has been made, it is submitted that the aforesaid rejections are moot in view of the structure of the claims now in the case. Withdrawal of these rejections is therefore requested.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 36

All claims now in the case ultimately relate back to Claim 36, which stands rejected as obvious over a single reference, U.S. 5,731,279.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection on this basis.


As disclosed at page 18, lines 12-15, of the instant application, the objective herein is to provide a tablet having a density of at least about 1000 g/l so that it will sink in water and thereby dissolve more rapidly.

It is noted that the novel technology disclosed in '279 relates to detergent compositions which employ a new builder material having an unexpectedly high calcium ion exchange capacity and rate. The minimal disclosure of "tablets" amounts to a single word appearing at column 5, line 10. None of the Examples in '279 appears to be a tablet. Importantly, nothing therein teaches or suggests that tablets having a density of at least about 1000 g/l could, or should, be made from the disclosed compositions.

As is clear from independent Claim 36, the tablets of the present invention are made using two types of detergent granules (spray-dried/agglomerates), combined in specified proportions, treated with liquid add-on to reduce intra-particle porosity and compacted to a required density in order to achieve the desired solubility in water. It is submitted that '279 does not fairly suggest the aforesaid aspects of this invention under 35 USC 103 and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In light of the foregoing remarks and amendments, early and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 18, 2002

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(7129 Amendment.doc)
(Revised 5/21/02)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

20. (amended) The process of claim [1] 36 wherein said liquid is selected from the group consisting of nonionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, water, polyethylene glycol, and mixtures thereof.
21. (amended) The process of claim [1] 36 wherein said liquid is a nonionic surfactant.
22. (amended) The process of claim [1] 36 wherein said liquid is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight less than about 1000.
23. (amended) The process of claim [1] 36 wherein said water dispersible, non-particulate detergent product has at least about 5% greater dispersability in water as compared to a non-particulate detergent product having a density of at least about 1000 g/l but not having said liquid added to said low density particulate detergent composition per step [(b)] (d).
30. (amended) The detergent product formed by the process of claim [26] 36 wherein said liquid is a nonionic surfactant and is added to said low density detergent [particles] composition in an amount sufficient to reduce said intra-particle porosity by at least about 20%.
32. (amended) The detergent product formed by the process of claim [26] 36 wherein said liquid is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight less than about 1000.
33. (amended) The detergent product formed by the process of claim [26] 36 wherein said water-dispersible, non-particulate detergent product has at least about 5% greater dispersability in water as compared to a non-particulate detergent product having a density of at least about 1000 g/l but not having said liquid added to said low density particulate detergent composition per step [(b)] (d).

34. (amended) The detergent product formed by the process of claim [26] 36 wherein said liquid is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight less than about 1000, said polyethylene glycol is homogeneously mixed with said [low density] spray dried detergent granules [particles], and at least 80% by weight of said detergent product is dispersible in water after being immersed in water for no greater than about 3 minutes.
35. (amended) A method of laundering soiled clothes comprising the step of immersing said soiled clothes in an aqueous medium containing an effective amount of a non-particulate detergent product made by a process according to claim [1] 36.